

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01
ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 EPG-02
SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CEA-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8490
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USOECD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: UNCTAD
SUBJECT: UNCTAD: GROUP B MEETING JUNE 21

REF: CROWE-BRUNGART TELECON

1. AT GROUP B MEETING JUNE 21, COORDINATOR MONTGOMERY REPORTED THAT INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF UNCTAD TDB MINISTERIAL STILL GOING ON. HE REPORTED UNCTAD SECRETARIAT ACTIVELY DESIRES POSTPONEMENT BUT THERE IS RESISTANCE FROM SOME AFRICAN AND LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. (SURPRISINGLY, IN SEPARATE DISCUSSION TODAY WITH CHARGE AND ECMIN, ZAIRE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED SURPRISE WHEN WE REFERRED TO POSSIBILITY OF TDB POSTPONEMENT AND INDICATED THAT THIS WAS FIRST HE HAD HEARD OF IDEA. WE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT SECRETARIAT SOUNDINGS QUITE INCOMPLETE AT THIS STAGE.) MONTGOMERY ALSO REPORTED THAT SECRETARIAT CONSIDERED THAT IN VIEW OF CONTINUED UNCERTAINTY ABOUT
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TDB IT HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO GO AHEAD AND MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEBT EXPERTS MEETING JULY 18-26, BUT WITH CONTINUED POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONEMENT IF MINISTERIAL POSTPONED. WE REITERATED VIEW THAT DEBT EXPERTS MEETING SHOULD BE HELD IN JULY ONLY IF SEPTEMBER DATE FOR MINISTERIAL MAINTAINED. SOME OTHERS FELT JULY DATE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IF TDB POSTPONED FOR ONLY MONTH OR

TWO. WE REPORTED OUR INFORMATION IS THAT IF MOVE TO POSTPONE TDB IS SUCCESSFUL IT WOULD PROBABLY THEN NOT BE HELD UNTIL NEXT SPRING. ALL OF GROUP B THEN AGREED THAT WE SHOULD MAKE STRONG EFFORT TO HAVE DEBT EXPERTS MEETING POSTPONED IF TDB MINISTERIAL IS POSTPONED AND THAT THIS EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE EVEN IF FINAL DECISION ON TDB IS NOT TAKEN UNTIL SCHEDULED EARLY JULY CONSULTATIONS WITH REGIONAL GROUPS ON ENTIRE FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE.

2. WE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT SEVEN WORK DAY MEETING OF EXPERTS AS ENVISAGED BY SECRETARIAT WAS EXCESSIVE AND THAT TWO DAY MEETING WOULD BE ADEQUATE TO CARRY OUT ITS LIMITED MANDATE. OTHER GROUP B MEMBERS APPEARED LESS CONCERNED ABOUT DURATION OF MEETING ALTT SEEMED ACCEPT OUR POINT ABOUT STICKING TO AGREED NAIROBI MANDATE, BOTH FOR TDB MINISTERIAL ITSELF AND FOR DEBT EXPERTS PREPARATORY WORK. CONCERNING SIZE OF MEETING, WE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SMALLER GROUP THAN PRESENTLY ENVISAGED BY UNCTAD SECRETARIAT WOULD BE PREFERABLE. SINCE MOST GROUP B MEMBERS WISH TO BE INVOLVED IN WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE KEY PRE-PARATORY MEETING FOR MINISTERIAL, THEIR REACTION MADE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO GET BROUP B (MUCH LESS ENTIRE UNCTAD MEMBERSHIP) TO AGREE TO LIMITING DEBT EXPERTS TO LESS THAN 30 PARTICIPANTS.

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3. MONTGOMERY REPORTED THAT RECENT DAC MEETING HAD DISCUSSED GROUP B PREPARATIONS FOR DEBT EXPERTS MEETING AND CONCLUDED THAT THESE SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA RATHER THAN IN OECD FRAMEWORK. HE SAID DAC GROUP HAD ASKED US TO ORGANIZE ORIGINAL GROUP B COORDINATION HERE. HE NOTED THAT US, FRANCE, AND AUSTRALIA HAD RECENTLY SERVED AS GROUP B SPOKESMAN ON DEBT ISSUES AND SUGGESTED ONE OF THESE MIGHT PROVIDE COORDINATOR. IT WAS AGREED MATTER WOULD BE DECIDED WHEN GROUP B EXPERTS MEET AT OUTSET OF MEETING (WHENEVER IT IS HELD). (NOTE: ALL GROUP B MEMBERS AGREED IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE GROUP B COORDINATING MEETING HERE AT OUTSET OF DEBT EXPERTS MEETING AND BEFORE ANY DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE IN FULL MEETING.) SORENSON

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